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MAJOR ALFRED R. COURTNEY.

It affords the Editor-in-Chief much gratification to be able to publish in the REGISTER the tribute paid by the Richmond Bar to this venerable and beloved lawyer; for Major Courtney was his warm personal friend and in one of the great fraternal orders both served as Grand Masters and were constantly thrown together. Few men had more lovable traits and few men were more beloved. The resolutions are as follows:

In the death of Alfred Ranson Courtney the Bar of this city has been bereft of one of its most venerable, beloved and able members. His death marks, probably, the passing of the last of our members who came to the Bar preceding the commencement of the Civil War.

He was born in King and Queen County, Virginia, on November 17, 1833, of ancestors distinguished for industry, economy and morality. His grandfather on his maternal side was Captain Whitaker Campbell, who served as an officer in the war of the Revolution. His great-grandfather on his paternal side was Robert Courtney, the emigrant, who came to America from England in 1620 and settled on the north side of the York or Mattaponi River and acquired large landed estate in that section of the Colony. His grandfather Thomas Courtney, was the brother of the Rev. John Courtney who served for many years as the pastor of the First Baptist Church of this city, and who was scarcely less distinguished in the religious life of the city than his compeers, Parsons Blair and Buchanan. His father married Sarah Campbell and removed from King and Queen County to Henrico County, where he reared a family of ten children. They were Joseph C., James W., Robert M., Martha Elizabeth (who married Captain Smith), Lawrence S., Thomas L., Giles C., Maria L., (who married R. A. Patterson, late of this city), and Alfred Ranson. He married in the year 18—, Miss Lucy P. Shelton, of Henrico County, which union continued until about ten years ago. Subsequently he married Mrs. Wm. B. Courtney (née Wade) of this city, who survives him. Of neither marriage was there any issue.

With an ancestry in whose veins flowed Scotch and English

blood so pure it is not strange that our lamented brother developed in a high degree characteristics of intelligence, integrity and courage. He diligently and successfully prosecuted his studies in Richmond College and was graduated from that institution with the degree of B. A. in the year 1852. He subsequently pursued the study of law in this city and was at the beginning of the Civil War just entering upon the practice of his profession, when he responded to the call of his State, enlisting in the artillery service.

The following sketch of his military service, of which any loyal and patriotic citizen might well be proud, is published in the Confederate Military History, Volume III, p. 813:

"Major Alfred R. Courtney, distinguished in the artillery service of the Confederate States army and since the war prominent in the legal profession at Richmond, Va., entered the Confederate service in the spring of 1861 with the rank of lieutenant in the Hampton artillery. While in camp he was elected captain of another artillery company, which was mustered in July 8, 1861, and was subsequently known as Courtney's battery. Attached to the division of Major-General Richard S. Ewell, he commanded his battery in the engagements at Front Royal, Winchester, Cross Keys and Port Republic, in the Valley campaign of Jackson in 1862, and moving thence to the defense of Richmond, served with distinction in the Seven Days' fighting around Richmond. His gallantry at this time won him promotion to the rank of major of artillery, and the command of the artillery of Ewell's division. With this command he participated in the following: Manassas campaign, fighting at Slaughter Mountain and the second battle of Manassas, and subsequently at Harper's Ferry, Bristoe Station and Fredericksburg. Then being transferred to the Department of East Tennessee he fought at the battles of Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge, and subsequently took part in the Atlanta campaign, commanding a battalion of the artillery of Hood's division of the army of Tennessee. At the battle of Resaca he was seriously wounded, but was able to resume his command and participate in the three days battle about Atlanta and the encounter at Jonesboro, Ga. In the spring of 1865, at Columbus, Miss., he was put in command of a battalion of artillery, organized from the remnants of

various batteries left from the Tennessee campaign, and with this force reported to General Beauregard at Augusta, Ga., where he was on duty when the armies surrendered in the east. He was paroled at Augusta by General Fry, a Confederate officer who was given that authority by General Sherman. His prominent service in the armies of Northern Virginia and Tennessee renders him a conspicuous figure among the survivors of the Confederate armies, and his career in civil life has been no less honorable and manly."

At the end of the war Major Courtney returned to his home in Richmond and embarked on his career as a lawyer, and was soon thereafter elected Commonwealth's Attorney of the county of Henrico, in which office, however, he never qualified, being debarred from holding that office by the military authorities who then had control of Virginia as Military District No. 1. In the year 1870 he was triumphantly elected to the Senate of Virginia from the county of Henrico, and served with marked ability during his term of four years. On his retirement from the Senate or about that time he formed a partnership with the late Henry G. Cannon, at that time one of the leading lawyers at the Bar of this city. The dockets of the courts of this city during the succeeding fifteen or twenty years will show that the firm thus formed enjoyed a large and lucrative practice.

For a number of years he has been one of the most trusted Commissioners in Chancery of the Circuit Court of the county of Henrico and of the Law and Equity Court of the city of Richmond. His discriminating intellect and inherent sense of justice marked his findings as Commissioner and served to lighten the labors of the Chancellor who had the good fortune to follow him as pioneer through bewildering doubt, brought about by conflicting authorities.

The honorable position to which he attained as soldier, as legislator and as lawyer was equalled if not surpassed as a member of his fraternal order. He was made a Mason in Army Lodge (under dispensation) at Dalton, Georgia, in 1863. Subsequently, in the same year, he became a member of Dove Lodge No. 51, this city, and afterwards served as its Master. He was elected High Priest of Lafayette Royal Arch Chapter No. 43, this city, October 19, 1872, and Eminent Commander of Richmond Com-

mandery No. 2 in June, 1886, and Grand Master of Masons in Virginia in December, 1896. He succeeded Capt. A. G. Babcock as President of the Masonic Home of Virginia, which position he held until his death. He was also, at the time of his death, a member of the Board of Trustees of Richmond College, on which he served for a quarter of a century.

His dignified mien, alertness of intellect and firmness of character rendered him preëminent as a presiding officer, and as a consequence he was frequently called upon to preside in deliberative bodies to which he belonged. Of him it may be truly said:

"He never sold the right to serve the hour,
Or paltered with eternal truth for power."

On the evening of Tuesday, November 3, 1914, he met with a sister Masonic Lodge of this city, viz, Richmond Lodge No. 10, and upon returning to his home about 11 o'clock in his usual health and spirits was stricken with a hemorrhage of the brain and at once became unconscious, and lingering passed away at 11:30 o'clock on the next evening, in the eighty-first year of his age.

Good comrade, true friend, dear brother, we bid thee not good-bye but good-night, for you, like your great commander, Jackson, have only passed over the river and now "rest under the shade of the trees," where we believe we will be reunited to you in the great beyond.